

**ABSTRACT**

5 A novel frame-matching method and apparatus in a communication system is disclosed. The frame matching method and apparatus of the present invention matches or aligns flexible length data (*e.g.*, symbols) to standard-sized frames without the need for non-standard puncturing. The method and apparatus of the present invention determines how many times to disable symbol puncturing based upon parameters associated with a given data set. The present invention is capable of disabling symbol puncturing for any given data bit, group of data or symbol.

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